



World Christian Fellowship

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Heaven

05-Our Relationship

How we will relate with one another in Heaven?

We see from the scriptures that there are Angels and redeemed community is in the heaven.

i) **Angels**

Angel is a spiritual creature without a body created by God for the service of Christendom and the church.

Angels always attending to the presence of God. Since God is in heaven, angels will be as well.

God is often called the Lord of hosts, a title that refers to His being surrounded by His holy angels. God always has holy angels in His presence.

1 Thessalonians 4:17,

We will always be with the Lord, so we will be with angels, too.

But how will we interact with them?

1. Conversing with Angels

Hebrews 12:22, *But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,*

"Myriads" refers to an innumerable number.

When we enter the heavenly Jerusalem, we will be in the company of the angels.

Hebrews 12:23, *to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,*

The elect angels and the elect saints form the elect company of inhabitants in the new heavens and earth.

The angels are spirit beings.

They do not have bodies although they can and do take human form when God desires. Some don't understand how we in glorified bodies will be able to interact with spirit beings.

We interact over the telephone with people we can't see. In heaven we will be able to perceive what to us in the physical world is now invisible.

2. Rejoicing with Angels

If the angels, who have exclusively enjoyed heaven and doing the work of God, will they be jealous when we are perfected?

There can't be a war between glorified saints and elect angels because both are absolutely and eternally holy.

Luke 15 we have three great parables.

- Lost Sheep,
- Lost Coin, and
- Lost Son.

All three parables illustrate the heart of God.

When the man found his lost sheep what did he do?

Luke 15:6, *And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'*

Then Christ gave the point of the story.

Luke 15:7, *I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.*

God and His holy angels rejoice over the repentance of a sinner.
Woman who lost a coin when she found it what did she do?

Luke 15:9, *And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbours together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!’*

Then Christ gave the point of the story.

Luke 15:10, *Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

Here we find the angels rejoicing.

They are not jealous of the redeemed church rather they rejoice over it.

The story of the prodigal son when the son returns back what did the father do?

Luke 15:32, *It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’ ”*

All the servants of the father were called to the feast and rejoiced with him.

Those three parables show that God and the angels rejoice over the conversion of sinners. And if they rejoice over our conversion, how much more will they rejoice over us when in perfected souls and bodies we become the epitome of what God began in our redemption.

To the angels we will be a source of eternal joy.
They will love the redeemed.

They will be thrilled with what has been done to perfect us and bring us to the holy presence of the God they worship and adore.

3. Worshiping together with angels

Revelation 4 explains that we will join the angels in worshiping God.

Revelation 4:4, *Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.*

The twenty-four elders symbolize the church. Twelve represent Old Testament saints, each from a different tribe, and that twelve are the apostles representing New Testament saints. The elders refer to redeemed saints.

Revelation 4:6, *Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back*

Those creatures, resembling the ones in Ezekiel 1, are angels. They, along with the twenty-four elders, representing redeemed men together worship.

Revelation 4:8-11, *The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:¹¹ “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”*

An almost similar we can see in the next chapter as well.

Revelation 5:8-14, *Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,¹² saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and*

under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

4. Angels serves us

Hebrews 1:14, *Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*

Angels are ministering spirits whose duty is to serve the heirs of salvation.

In Hebrews chapter 1 they are contrasted with Christ:

- ✓ Christ's destiny is to reign,
- ✓ Angels' are created to serve.

They were created to serve the redeemed not just in time but also in eternity. We will reign with Christ, and those who serve Christ will serve us.

Hebrews 2:7, *You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honour, And set him over the works of Your hands.*

That happened in His incarnation, when He humbled Himself and died the shameful death of the cross.

But He was made lower than angels only for a little while, then was exalted and crowned with glory and honour.

Now Christ reigns!

Likewise, we are lower than the angels only for a little while. When we enter heaven, we will reign with Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:21, *far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*

Revelation 3:21, *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*

God has promised that we will sit on the throne with Christ at God's right hand.

We will reign!

Angels will serve.

Hebrews 1:13, *But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?*

We will commune with angels, rejoice with them, and praise God with them, but we will rule over them. They will serve us in heaven.

1 Corinthians 6:1, Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

Paul was telling the Corinthians not to sue other believers in a secular court.

1 Corinthians 6:2-3, *Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?³ Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?*

When Christ establishes His earthly kingdom, believers will be His ambassadors, rulers, kings, and princes.

We will carry out the verdicts of Christ.

Throughout eternity, angels will serve us as we rule with Christ. They will do what we ask them to do in joyful expression of their intended purpose.

ii) Family

Popular questions!

Will I be married to the same woman in heaven?

Will we have family love and fellowship?

Will our relationships in heaven be like they are here?

What will happen to my spouse?

When considering those questions, it is important to remember that we will all be perfect. No one will ever do, say, or think anything wrong.

1 Corinthians 7

In this chapter specifically the issue of marriage and family elaborated.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31, *But this I say, brethren, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none,³⁰ those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess,³¹ and those who use this world as not misusing it. For the form of this world is passing away.*

In the context Paul lists some of the things that are passing away:

- Marriage,
- Weeping,
- Earthly rejoicing, and
- Ownership.

All of this in the world is passing away.

'Schema' Greek word refers to fashion, manner of life, and a way of doing things.

Paul was saying we should take what life brings yet keep from being engulfed in it because all those things are part of a schema that is temporary.

Although the responsibilities of marriage are wonderful, don't allow your marriage to become an excuse for your failure to serve God, put treasure in heaven, or set your affections on things above.

We should experience sorrow and joy and buy what we need to buy, but we must not let our emotions and possessions control us so that we become entangled by this passing world.

1 Corinthians 7:32-33, *But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord.³³ But he who is married cares about the things of the world—how he may please his wife.*

So, if you can remain single, do. Concentrate on the things of the Lord because marriage is a temporary provision.

That doesn't mean we are to become indifferent to our marriages. Rather, it means that God has given us a wonderful gift in the present scheme of things, and we need to enjoy it to the fullest.

1 Peter 3:7, *Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honour to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.*

It is the grace of life, but it is passing away.

Matthew 22

Matthew 22:23, *The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him,*

The Pharisees taught that after the resurrection each person would have the same relationships he has here. He would be married to the same woman and have the same family forever. They believed the next life would be just like this one.

But the Sadducees didn't believe there would even be a resurrection, so they tried to paint an absurd portrait of the

Pharisees' theology in the appearance of asking Jesus a question.

Matthew 22:24, saying: “Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother.

That is a principle taught in Deuteronomy 25 by Moses.

Next the Sadducees presented their hypothetical scenario.

Matthew 22:25-30, Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother.²⁶ Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh.²⁷ Last of all the woman died also.²⁸ Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her.”²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.

All the angels were created at one time, and angels don't procreate.

- Men here will be men in eternity, and
- Women here will be women in eternity.

But there will be no marrying or giving in marriage in heaven.
Same way we will be like the angels.

Why will there be no marriage in heaven?

Because the reason there is marriage here is

- Man needs a helper,
- Woman needs a protector.

Both man and women join together in marriage they can produce children. God has designed that way.

In heaven,

Man won't need a helper because he will be perfect.

Woman won't need a protector because she will be perfect.

No one will be born in heaven because only the redeemed can live there.

I am happily married. I love my wife. She's my best friend and my dearest companion in every area of life.

You will enjoy that companionship with her in heaven forever-- and with every other person in heaven as well.

If having such a deep relationship with your spouse here is so wonderful, imagine how wonderful to enjoy the best of human relationships, glorified to the point that you enjoy the same relationship equally with every human being.

iii) Other saints

a) Unchanged identity

We will be forever who we are now.

Genesis 25:8, *Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.*

Genesis 35:29, *So Isaac breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people, being old and full of days. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.*

Genesis 49:29, *Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,*

Numbers 20:24, *Aaron shall be gathered to his people, for he shall not enter the land which I have given to the children of Israel, because you rebelled against My word at the water of Meribah.*

Judges 2:10, *When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.*

Often when a person died, the biblical writers said he was gathered to his people, implying that those who died maintained their identities--they went to their people.

David's child died.

2 Samuel 12:23, *But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."*

David knew that both he and his child would maintain their identities. In heaven everyone will maintain his identity. We will be a diverse company of individuals.

The New Testament illustrates that our identities will be unchanged.

While sharing the Passover meal with His disciples Christ said to His disciples.

Luke 22:17-18, *Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."*

Christ was saying that He and His disciples would drink the fruit of the vine together again.

Our Lord, speaking about the millennial kingdom.

Matthew 8:11, *And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.*

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will be there, and we will too.

Revelation 19:7-9, *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.⁹ Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”*

There will be a marriage supper in heaven for the Lamb and His bride, the church. The guests are the Old Testament and Tribulation saints.

All the redeemed will maintain their identity forever, only in a perfected form. We will be able to have fellowship with Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Samuel, Moses, Joshua, Esther, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, David, Peter, Barnabas, Paul, or anyone else we choose, and we all will be ourselves.

The appearance of Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration proves that even though they died centuries before, they still maintained their identity.

Matthew 17:3, *And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.*

Peter, James, and John recognized them, which implies that we will be able to recognize people we have never seen before.

We will instantly know everyone and enjoy their company, never ceasing to be who we are.

Jesus told the thief on the cross.

Luke 23:43, *"Today you shall be with Me in Paradise"*

They reached heaven together as distinct persons.

The Sadducees tried to trap Jesus about the resurrection.

Jesus quoted from the book of Exodus.

Exodus 3:6, *Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.*

Matthew 22:31-32, *But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, ³²'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.'*

Christ meant that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were still living, and that God continued to rule over them, not merely in the past.

In Luke 16 the rich man died and went to hell. The beggar Lazarus died and went to heaven. Both maintained their identities, and so will we.

Revelation 2:17, “*He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”’*

In heaven our identities will not change, but our names will.

Revelation 3:5, *He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.*

Christ will confess our perfected, eternal names before God.

Revelation 3:12, *He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.*

Every believer will be there with all the redeemed, genuinely bearing the name of God and Christ.

b) Loving reunion

We will be reunited with our family and friends in heaven. That each person will retain his identity implies we will be reunited with them.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 promises the rapture of the church.

1 Thessalonians 4:18, "*Comfort one another with these words.*"

That comfort comes from the prospect of reunion. Some Thessalonian believers feared that those who had died might miss the rapture. Paul encouraged those fearful believers to comfort one another, assuring them that those who died would not miss His coming.

Christ will come, bringing believers who have died with Him, and will give them and those who are alive glorified bodies. We will all be together forever from then on. Since we will know everyone, we will therefore know our loved ones.

Revelation 21:1-4, *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.* ² *Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.* ³ *And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their*

God. ⁴And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

There will be fellowship without tears, separation, pain, death, sorrow, or anxiety. The things that make fellowship difficult on earth will all be removed.

We will have relationships like we have never experienced. There will be beauty in heaven. There also will be perfect humour in heaven because that, too, is a gift from God.

What a hope we have?

Glorious relationships await us!

Psalms 116:15, Precious in the sight of the Lord Is the death of His saints.

1 Corinthians 2:9, But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”